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FRANK A. MUNSEY.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1908.

Livestock and Meat Prices.

There have been few more ample justifications for Governmental interference with trade conditions than that afforded by the recent course of livestock and meat prices in this country.

It was the livestock of the Middle West which, rushed to market in unprecedented quantities, and thence rushed to foreign consumers who were demanding it, did more than any other single factor to bring in the great stream of money that floated the country off the commercial reefs of last fall's depression. The farmers had the stock, the market wanted it; nothing else could so readily be turned to money.

But the tremendous marketing caused a great slump in prices. They went down something like 40 per cent. It seemed certain that such a drop could not fail to produce corresponding reaction in the prices of meats to the consumer.

But did it? At the very time when prices of livestock at the great Western markets were lowest and receipts were heavy, there went forth a chorus of complaint from the carnivorous element of the population about the advance of meat prices. It was the same everywhere. Nobody seemed to be exactly responsible; but it happened, and happened simultaneously in all quarters of the land.

Now, following the heavy sales which may always be expected on a falling market, the movement of stock has contracted, and prices are going up by leaps and bounds. With them the price of meat is going up in about the same proportion.

The situation is this: when the price of stock was falling, the price of meat didn't fall. The consumer got not one cent's benefit. But when the price of stock began rising the price of meat kept steady pace with it.

There seems to be need of explanation, and it is respectfully suggested that the Bureau of Corporations is there for the purpose of extracting information on such subjects.

The Evidences of Revolt.

It would be useless for even the most besotted devotee of the present conditions in the national House of Representatives to deny that the movement for reform of the rules is gaining ground. It is gaining because the country at large is coming to understand better than ever before how much those rules have degraded the House from its intended position as the popular body.

The truth is that the Senate, not the House, is today most nearly the popular branch of the Government. The Senate's rules are cumbersome, and at times become the instrument of delay and filibustering. But, after all, it takes more people to conduct a real filibuster under the Senate rules than it does to operate a complete holdup in the House.

For a good many years it has been the fashion to mock-rake the Senate, to lay at its door the failures of Government to respond to the popular will, to assume that it had degenerated into a millionaires' club of representatives of special interests. The thing has been overdone, and today there is revolution of opinion. The Senate is coming to be recognized as the effective legislative body. Perhaps it has no higher average of ability or of good intentions than the House possesses, but it has steadfastly refused to tie its hands and paralyze its abilities with rules such as manacle the one-time representative branch. It is now the Senate to which the nation looks to do the real formative work on all progressive, constructive legislation. The Senate rehabilitated itself in the country's confidence and esteem by its handling of the rate bill. It has been gaining ground ever since, while the House has just as certainly been losing.

The number of changes needed in the House rules, in order to make it once more a representative and self-governing body, is small. The demand that they be made is growing every day, and in every constituency in the nation—not excepting even the Danville and Pittsburgh districts. The protest has become so strong that at least it is safe to say the Democrats, if they control the next House, will not dare readopt the present rules unchanged. They will have to make some concession to

the demand for better conditions, and to their own past professions of reform intentions.

The purpose of rules is to promote business, not to prevent it. The utility of committees is to aid in dispatch of legislation, not to serve as dark pockets in which it may be lost. The presiding officer should be the servant of the House, not its master.

The Venezuela Complications.

There is no doubt that President Castro is a good deal of a pest, but it is still rather uncertain whether he is not also a good deal of a patriot, and rather an enlightened person as to the international equities. Castro is rated by different students as everything from a charlatan and a despot usurper to a statesman and a great national leader. He is the enfant terrible of American diplomacy. He is commonly supposed to be something more than half wrong, but he keeps enough right on his side and keeps the wrong so beclouded in uncertainty that it is difficult to reach a secure conclusion as to the merits of a case against him.

The insignificance of Castro's power is one of the factors which make it possible for him to strut and declaim and avoid chastisement. The United States has intervened in his country's behalf when the European world was involved; it has been extremely considerate and slow to wrath when merely American concerns were at stake. Castro has taken advantage of this situation repeatedly; unfair and unreasonable advantage. He seems to imagine that immunity will be extended to him for any excesses; and possibly he suspects that the United States will not care to employ extreme means in managing him.

In truth, chastisement of Castro is well-nigh an impossible proposition. It isn't practicable to do it by commercial embargo, because Venezuelan commerce isn't important enough to make this seriously effective. A fleet can't shoot very far inland, and an army that could march inland and make itself really felt would be an expensive affair. When it had made its punitive expedition and been withdrawn, the face of things would be unchanged. It would be like stabbing a sponge with a stiletto, trying to find a vital part. There would be nothing in it all for the United States, but a serious risk of its dignity, a heavy expense, and the possibility of having finally to garrison the turbulent country in order to collect, after long years of effort, the indemnity that would have to be assessed to pay the expenses of the enterprise.

Art and Nature.

Naturalism as Japan—with the rest of the world—is coming to understand it, gets this jolt from the Tokyo Yorucho Choho:

Recently a violent current of thought has been spreading over our country. It is naturalism, which has its earnest advocates among our novelists. They seem to think that human life would not be worth a straw if there were no sensual pleasures. They would, therefore, go on spending their whole energy and their efforts to depict the dark side of life in the most naked manner. It is not necessary to state that fiction written by such novelists is of vicious character. Even grown-up persons will not be safe from its bad influence.

Indeed, these novelists are the messengers of Beelzebub putting on the masks of smiling angels sent to tempt men; they have a magical power by which they can lead men into a state of anaesthesia and lead them all along the course of temptation to the habitation of fallen angels. If man is caught by such a destiny will be degradation. Such books as they write are the most terrible enemy of young people. Every household should build an iron wall to keep out immoral novels.

Of the immoral novel the "Yorucho," or the "Choho," whichever it may be, speaks truly. Every household should build an iron wall to keep them out. He who said "Lead us not into temptation," had full insight into the nature of the human. But of naturalism, our Japanese contemporary does not talk so well.

Naturalism has come to mean immorality to vast numbers of readers and to greater numbers of players. The disregard for convention which has led to the adoption of an artistic style hitherto condemned has usually carried the artist beyond other conventionalities. So we have been given such plays as "Ghosts," a whole department of graphic art, and not a few operas of the same general tendencies. But these results are a product of merged purposes, not of naturalism alone.

All art is a matter of emphasis, of selecting details. Bougereau omitted all that was not smooth and placid; David all that was not stiff and formal; the Greeks all that was not of the perfect type as far as the artist could perceive it; Rodin all that did not have immediate and substantial meaning. This last is naturalism. It has its literary expression in such works as "Creatures That Once Were Men." It has no matter of morals, it is a matter of eyes and reason. Keeping to the great change which has come over art since the day of Phidias, insisting on portraying personality and type, the naturalist chooses those actual living details which, as he believes, will have

greatest value in reproducing the impression in his own mind.

The object may be ever so exalted, as in Millet's "Angelus." It may be ever so revolting as in any of half a dozen bloody pictures in the greatest of European galleries. It may be even religious. But, whatever it is, it is a matter of treatment, and not one of substance. In the end, the great struggle will be between this conception of art—utilitarian, literary, graphic, musical—which is that it depends intimately on an imitation of nature—and the symbolism of Japan, which takes no account of anything save the direct and simple representation of an idea.

It appears that Mr. Bryan is to attend a banquet in New York, where he is not expected to make a speech. If Mr. Bryan proves able to do this, the claim that he is the most versatile person in the world will be pretty well demonstrated. He will have done the one thing nobody really believed possible.

Every State convention turns out a tariff revision plank these days, but it is well to make careful examination of the timber used in them.

New Political Dictionary: Constitution means "excuse for not doing things."

Senator Johnston proposes to skin the Banana trust, in which enterprise he will have ample sympathy; but he is urged to make discreet disposal of the peel.

A skunk is reported to have visited the office of the mayor of Philadelphia and taken possession. The explanation that the enterprising beast, having heard something about the odorous qualities of Philadelphia politics, merely wanted to fumigate the place, may be dismissed as inspired by rank malice.

For a mild-mannered young man who never says much, the Hon. Herbert Parsons is cutting quite a considerable figure as a political boss.

Presumably this proposed Republican caucus will be held for the purpose of showing that if it can't agree about anything else, the G. O. P. can agree about disagreeing.

A Kentucky woman has left \$100,000 to the American Bible Society. It is presumed the society will decide to spend the whole amount in that State, in a missionary movement to unhorse the nightriders and denaturize the feuds.

The Portuguese royal family is so hard that the imperial stables are to be denuded of a lot of the best horses. Thus does royalty get on the simple, democratic plane of the common Pittsburgh millionaire.

Senator Jeff Davis established a bad precedent in allowing an opponent to take his cane away from him. First he knows, the octopus will pluck up courage to stick out a big tentacle and pull him in.

It may be worth mentioning that in numerous cities throughout these United States steps are being taken to assure the safety against fire of the school buildings now in use, and to provide that those constructed in future shall be of better quality in this regard. Also, to mention that Washington is not a pioneer among these progressive communities.

Even if you are smart enough to prevent anybody making a fool of you today, you still have that excellent chance of making one of yourself.

SCRUBBED AND COOKED;
MAN IS CALLED CRUEL

NEW YORK, April 1.—Here are a few of the married men on "B" week, as alleged to have done to him before suing for separation and alimony:

Made him scrub the floor and cook after-theater meals for her.

Kicked because he could prepare eggs only three ways and was a failure at lobster salad.

Collected payments from the customers of his installment jewelry business.

Removed his furniture bit by bit—taking his stove out during the coldest day last winter, and the one mattress just as he was going to bed the same night.

She appeared before Supreme Court Justice Hendrick demanding separation from Oslas, \$10 a week alimony and \$100 counsel fees upon charges of cruelty and intoxication.

Oslas didn't look as though there were enough spunk in him to pass for cruelty. "I married her on 'B' week," he pleaded helplessly. "I was eating well then; I had two suits of clothes and my business was picking up. I fixed her up fine in 1333 Broadway street. She was thin then; I was fat. Now look at us. See how she has filled out until she is the only fat woman on East Side women. And see me—how I have filled in until I have not even a decent shadow."

Oslas wept copiously. The suspicion of a tear shed was in Judge Hendrick's eye. He said, "I deny the separation and the alimony and the counsel fees. Take her back and start in life over with her, and may the best win."

Oslas wept more copiously still.

200 STUDENTS JOIN STRIKE
AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

PALO ALTO, Cal., April 1.—The strike of the students of Leland Stanford, Jr., University against the faculty edict ordering compulsory vaccination continues to spread. In addition to forty-one students recently suspended, more undergraduates will be missed from the class rooms when classes open Monday. The 200 failed to pay any attention to the faculty order. They will be suspended for ten days.

March
Circulation Figures

Net Daily Average:

The Times.....46,306

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NEW YORK, April 1.—Claiming to be 157 years old, Rev. Brooks Mason, a colored preacher, is leading revival meetings in Plainfield, N. J. He said his grandfather lived to be 150 years old, his parents passed the 125th milestone in life and a sister died when she was 98. Mason has been married twice, and his present wife is only twenty-six years old. She accompanies him on his evangelistic tours.

NEW SUPREME COURT
CAMPAIGN GOSSIP

Next President May Have to Make Several Appointments to the Bench.

Whether Judges Are Democrats or Republicans May Make Vast Difference.

No more important duty will be incumbent on the next Administration than the one of reorganizing the Supreme Court of the United States. It is not unlikely that the man who is chosen to succeed President Roosevelt will have to appoint four men to the highest judicial tribunal. If Secretary Taft enters the White House he will probably have to fill by appointment the very office with which his name has been so much connected, that of the chief justice, as well as the posts of three associate justices. It will presumably make considerable difference in the future course of the Court, whether the selection of a large number of members of the supreme bench falls to Secretary Taft or some other Republican President or whether it falls to William Jennings Bryan.

Not Issue as a Rule.

The Supreme Court is not, as a rule, an issue in a political campaign. But it is quite certain that this subject of filling Supreme Court vacancies will be given no small degree of attention by thinking voters, before next November.

Chief Justice Melville W. Fuller was born February 11, 1833. He was seventy-five years old his last birthday and will be past eighty before the successor to Mr. Roosevelt steps out of office. The chief justice will no doubt retire before the end of the next Administration.

A great deal of talk has been indulged about his retirement, but he has shown no haste to step down and out, as, indeed, chief justices have not in the history of the country. The suggestion has been made that one reason why Chief Justice Fuller is in no haste to leave the bench is that he is a Democrat, and if there is to be a Democratic Administration following his one he would prefer to retire under such a regime, rather than under a Republican Administration. Whether that has anything to do with the matter is conjecture. It may be presumed the chief justice prefers to keep busy with his judicial duties rather than to lead a life of retirement.

Justice Harlan was born June 1, 1833, and is within a few months of the age of Chief Justice Fuller. Rumors of his contemplated retirement arise every few months, and while he is apparently in no hurry to step down, he will naturally do so before the close of the next Administration.

Justice David J. Brewer will soon be seventy-one years of age. He was born in 1836, and his name is not generally known, was not born in the United States, but in Smyrna, Asia Minor. His father was one of the early settlers of Wisconsin. Justice Brewer will be nearly seventy-six when the next Administration closes, and may leave the bench before that time. Not much is heard of him in age is Justice Peckham, who will be seventy his next birthday, and who may likewise be expected to retire in the next five years.

No Politics, Theoretically.

Theoretically, no such consideration as politics or the bias of the mind of a judge on certain great questions before the country enters into the mind of the Executive when he fills vacancies on the Supreme Court of the United States. Practically, as a search through history will show, the Executive is pretty apt to pick his judicial appointees as he picks others. A President favorable to an income tax would hardly be expected to nominate a man for justice who was an ardent opponent of such a measure. The Supreme Court that he knew would knock out an income tax law if there was any excuse for it. So it is with other matters. President Roosevelt has been repeatedly accused of a purpose to reorganize the Supreme Court, and there has never been a disavowal of this. So it is likely he intended, when possible, to put men on the bench that would uphold the legislation he advocated. So it is likely he intended, when possible, to put men on the bench that would uphold the legislation he advocated. So it is likely he intended, when possible, to put men on the bench that would uphold the legislation he advocated.

NEW YORK, April 1.—Falling into a deep ditch into which natural gas was escaping, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Lowney were this morning horribly burned by an explosion which followed, and were pinned in by flames until men arrived and rescued them. Mrs. Lowney is so burned that her recovery is doubtful.

Returning home on a midnight train from Pittsburgh, where he attended a Geneva College banquet, Mr. and Mrs. Lowney started to walk to their home near the college. The residence of Joseph Roy Cresspool ten feet deep had been dug and a red light placed near it.

In the darkness the couple stepped too near the edge of the pavement and the earth crumbling through threw them into the hole. The lantern ignited gas, causing a burst of flame, causing a fire explosion.

With the burning gas eating into their flesh Mr. and Mrs. Lowney crouched in the pit and screamed. President W. H. George, of Geneva College, living nearby, with the assistance of several students, rescued the two. Mr. Lowney's face was burned and flesh fell from his hands.

Mrs. Lowney was burned over her entire body and is not expected to live. Mr. Lowney is a trustee of Geneva College and a superintendent of the Key-stone Driller Works here.

COLORED PREACHER IS 137;
FAMILY OF CENTENARIANS

NEW YORK, April 1.—Claiming to be 157 years old, Rev. Brooks Mason, a colored preacher, is leading revival meetings in Plainfield, N. J. He said his grandfather lived to be 150 years old, his parents passed the 125th milestone in life and a sister died when she was 98. Mason has been married twice, and his present wife is only twenty-six years old. She accompanies him on his evangelistic tours.

SPRING POEM CONTEST

Good poems are rare, and bad ones are raw, so there isn't so much difference, after all. Scores of good poems are coming through the mails every day to the Spring Poem Editor. Keep up the contest. The author of the best spring poem will get a prize of five dollars at the end of the week. The best ones will be printed each day. Here are a few more:

Oh, the springtime now is here!
The gladdest time of the year!
The grass is sharpening up "Jerry,"
Just not enough for beer.
The Avenue Poet.

Ho, all ye people, who can sing,
Come listen to my lay;
And learn the dangers of the spring
That now beset thy way.

The signs of spring are fading fast,
The spring itself we see;
Embryo poets "blow their blast"
And hope to "blow that V."

The crocus blossoms in the glades,
The trees begin to shoot;
The grass is sharpening up its blades;
The owls begin to hoot.

The peepers tuning up their lyre;
The mosquitoes whirring their wings;
The "cowsplips" in the meadow mire,
And "rushes" on the hills.

The flowers each a pitfall has,
And every rose a thorn,
While daisy "blooms" in the grass
Just make sure you're forlorn.
W. T. Fitzhugh, The Newton.

"The first robin-redbreast of spring
That has decided up to sing;
When whew! comes a blizzard
And freezes his gizzard,
Right tight to his little wing.

"So the fool with no overcoat
Finds himself in a similar boat;
He sneezes and wheezes
And damns the March breezes,
And nurses an awful sore throat."

Eudorus C. Kenney,
1235 O street northwest.

Spring whispered to me in a vision
Tender,
"Love me now, for I may not linger
long;
Write no vain verse to celebrate my
splendor,
Myself am poem, symphony, and
song."
Gertrude Wittington,
607 Fourth street northwest.

The dandelion lifts its yellow head,
Above the grass so green;
The bluebird, too, is seen once more,
For spring is here, 'twould seem.

Go put the snow shovel out of sight,
You have used it many a time;
Look up the window screens right now,
'Tis a new coat of paint for thine.

The mosquitoes, too, will soon be
around,
Claiming relationship to all;
And when they give you a good-
night kiss,
You'll wish it was next fall.

Ere long the lawn mower will sing
its tune,
For spring is here again;
So read up the weather in The Times—
"For tomorrow—colder and rain."
Doris Merz Bauman,
712 Maryland avenue northeast.

The grass is green upon the lawn,
The bluebirds sing their lay,
The young man puts his coat in pawn,
For spring has come to stay;
The dandelion puffs its seed,
The bluebird falls from the sky,
The blooming cold that's in my head,
All tell me spring is here.
Joseph V. Saunders,
134 Eighth street northwest.

Here's to the Spring, with its joys and
its woes,
But you're caught in the rain in your
brand-new clothes;
But if in your old ones the sun shines
out bright,
All others look lovely, and you are
a fright.

These lovely spring rains are so nice
for the skin,
But when the wind blows, why, the
freckles begin.
This dreary weather will make your
hair curl,
But if it's not, oh, poor girl!

And if you're out in an automobile,
How simply, perfectly lovely you feel;
But out in the country, stuck in the
mud,
Your spirits are apt to come down with
a thud.

For, oh, you know that it's charming to
not quite so nice when you have to
walk home;
But here's to the Spring, with its smiles
and its tears,
Umbrellas, goloshes, spring hats for the
dears!

Bills for the same, and housecleaning,
too,
Now, that are the men going to do!
Don't worry, poor soul, 'twill soon be
over;
'Twill be worse when Christmas comes
once more.
M. C. Hines,
322 Massachusetts avenue northeast.

Spring, with music, the world doth at-
tune,
The bird with its song, the rose with its
bloom,
The brook with its ripple, the boy with
his glee,
Sound Nature's reveille from inland to
sea.

Spring, morning of seasons, calls earth
The work of providing the harvest of
noon;
That the stores of the evening may
bring delight to the dawn;
A Nature again, earn the rest of a night.
Josephine Grobety,
618 F street northeast.

Where the rosy bosom'd Hours
Fair Venus' train appear,
Disclose the long expected flowers
And wake the purple year.
The attic warbler pours her throat,
Responsive to the cuckoo's note.
The untuned harmony of spring,
While whispering pleasure as they
fly
Cool zephyrs through the clear, blue
sky
The gathered fragrance fling,
Where'er the oak's thick branches
stretch
A broader, browner shade.
Where the rude and moss-grown
beech
O'eracropes the glade,
Beside some water's rushy brink,
With me the Muse shall sit and think.
Harry L. Sussman,
431 First street northwest.

"Take heart, be comforted; Springtime
is coming,
And we'll walk the green meadows with
the sunshine blooming;
The sunshine shall waken the sweet
nodding clover,
And cover the fields with buttercups
over."

"Oh, south wind, be kind to thy sorrow-
ing children,
And the little pigs are squealing,
And the little pigs are dancing in a
ring;
And the little ducks are waddling,
And the little pigs are dancing in a
ring;
And the little poets writing rot they've
writ" each spring.
E. Churchill,
The Lorraine.

With the joys of spring comes the
greatest of grief;
More sorrow and spring hats, and less
cabbage and beef,
And plumes and bright feathers are
made substitutes for
For more needed things, like stockings
and boots.

With the song of the bird you hear "I
don't like the shape,"
And when it's adjusted she looks like
an ape;
With the perfume of flowers comes the
disappointment of pride,
The bloom of the tree lost through
envy, green-eyes.
Lewella Grobety,
618 F street northeast.

"Spring, spring, oh beautiful spring!
Send me a husband with money to fling,
And a heart that is loyal,
And a voice that will sing,
And I love you forever,
And a real diamond ring."
Alice Cary Heiser,
511 C street northwest.

The Easter flowers are blooming,
The spring is here again,
And birds in every treetop
Send forth their glad refrain.

Again their nests are building
in many a shady nook,
And happy children wander
Beside the babbling brook.

All hail this Easter morning!
Our hearts in song and praise,
With love and adoration
Again to thee we raise.

For on that first glad Easter,
Before the dawn of day,
Angels of God came down to earth
And rolled the stone away.

Then Christ, the mighty conqueror,
From out the tomb arose
Victorious o'er sin and death—
Triumphant o'er our foes.
Perry Cleveland,
1463 Concoran street northwest.

THE CITIZENS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION spent \$1,779.71 in January to relieve distress.

THE CITIZENS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION spent \$1,779.71 in February for food, fuel, and clothing.

WILL YOU NOT HELP THE CITIZENS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION IN RELIEVING DISTRESS?

IN PURCHASING FOOD, FUEL, AND CLOTHING FOR THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING?

Address: THE JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE, 811 G Street.

For the Associated Charities, John Joy Edson, treasurer.

For the Citizens' Relief Association, Milton E. Ailes, treasurer.

For the Committee on Prevention of Consumption, Gen. W. H. Fordwood, treasurer.

A GRAVE AFFAIR.

"Father," said the lawyer's pretty daughter, "I just won't listen when old Judge Crosby makes love to me."

"My dear child, don't refuse," cried her horrified father. "That's contempt of court."—Exchange.

WOULD PAY "VETS"
WAGES IN GOLD

Scheme to Give Soldiers Difference Between Greenbacks and Specie.

Nobody seems to have figured how much it will cost, but there is a strong and expanding movement in favor of paying to the surviving soldiers of the civil war the amounts which would represent the difference between the value of the greenbacks which were paid to them as wages, and the amount they would have secured if they had been paid throughout in gold.

For many years this proposal has come up from time to time. Just now a great many petitions are presented in its favor, and some of the arguments are conceded by the legislators to be hard to answer. For instance, it is suggested that bonds, issued during the war and sold for depreciated greenbacks, were paid in gold, principal and interest. Why should not the soldier who was paid in greenbacks now get the difference, too?

The proposition to place commissioned officers on the retired list and give them the pay of retired officers of the rank they attained during the civil war, is being pressed with vigor, and the belief is that this will pass at the next Congress. That act would take care of retired officers in handsome shape; but the men who never got commissions haven't been able to work up much enthusiasm about it, because it doesn't promise to do anything for them.

It is for this reason that the proposition to pay to the soldiers the difference between the value of the greenbacks they received and the value of gold at that time, is being pushed so hard. The pension law, it is urged, must be based on a minimum term of service; ninety days before the war, and the most of the laws. The man who served for years stands on the same footing as the one who was in ninety days. But when it comes to making good the difference between gold and greenbacks, the benefit is proportionate to the length of service.

The bill is said to have possibilities of taking the place, in the near future, of some of the pension legislation now urged.

DEMOCRATS PLAN
PRIMARY MAY 18

District's Central Committee Decides it Cannot Give Seats to Bolters.

Democracy in the District of Columbia will have its primaries for the National Convention May 18 and the convention of the District May 21.

This was decided at a meeting last night of the central committee. Seven members who bolted at the last convention asked that they be given seats on the central committee, and notified the committee that, unless they are given seats, they will hold a separate convention and mix things up in great shape.

The committee decided that it had no jurisdiction on the matter, as the last convention made the membership of the committee final. The seven bolters who want seats on the committee are William E. Carr, J. J. Kenny, Robert Allen, John Barrett, C. B. Kenney, J. Frank O'Meara, and Thomas H. Carr. They will renew their petition to the committee Friday afternoon.